

Message Text

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FOL REPEAT MADRID 8104 SENT ACTION SECSTATE NOV 78

QTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 8104

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ECON, SP, US
SUBJECT: US-SPANISH DISCUSSIONS ON GSP

1. WHEN I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER CORTINA AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 18 ON ANOTHER SUBJECT (SEPTTEL), HE RAISED WITH ME THE STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING SPANISH DESIRE TO BE INCLUDED ON GSP LIST. HE SAID THAT SPAIN HAD BEEN MAKING AN EFFORT TO MEET US REQUIREMENTS AND HE FELT THAT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE. HOWEVER, FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (BASSOLS) HAD RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON DISCOURAGED BY THE WAY THE RECENT CONVERSATIONS HAD GONE. HE HAD REPORTED TO THE MINISTER THAT WHEREAS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE AGREEMENT, THE US POSITION SEEMED TO HAVE HARDENED. CORTINA SPECULATED THAT THE ALLEGED CHANGE IN US ATTITUDE MIGHT BE DUE EITHER TO US DESIRE NOT TO CONCLUDE AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN
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ON GSP UNTIL NEGOTIATIONS ON OVERALL AGREEMENT ON COOPERATIVE

RELATIONS HAD BEEN COMPLETED, OR US PREFERRED TO WAIT UNTIL
AFTER RESULTS OF ECONOMIC SUMMIT WERE KNOWN.

2. I TOLD CORTINA IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT WE WERE
MAKING EFFORTS TO NARROW THE GAP BETWEEN US AND SPAIN ON
THIS MATTER AND THAT OQR POSITION WAS DICTATED SOLELY BY
REQUIREMENTS OF US LAW AND BY ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS. I
TOLD HIM, HOWEVER, THAT I WOULD OBTAIN FROM DEPARTMENT
A READING ON THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE GSP NEGOTIATIONS.
STABLER

UNQTE
KISSINGER

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